

MIKE KELLY  
3RD DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
VICE CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY,  
INFORMATION POLICY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
RELATIONS AND PROCUREMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

515 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TEL.: (202) 225-5406  
FAX: (202) 225-3103

208 EAST BAYFRONT PARKWAY  
SUITE 102  
ERIE, PA 16507  
TEL.: (814) 454-8190  
FAX: (814) 454-8197

108 EAST DIAMOND STREET  
BUTLER, PA 16001  
TEL.: (724) 282-2557  
FAX: (724) 282-3682

182 MAIN STREET  
GREENVILLE, PA 16125  
TEL.: (724) 885-1113  
FAX: (724) 885-1114

March 22, 2011

The Honorable Lisa Jackson  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson,

We write to you with great concern over the status of the Allegheny River system.

The Allegheny River runs through much of northeast Pennsylvania and is the economic lifeblood of Armstrong County. However, the economy of the county is facing a pressing problem. As you may know, a portion of the existing lock system is scheduled to be shut down on March 31<sup>st</sup>.

In 1983, the EPA labeled several species of river mussels in the Allegheny as "endangered". Because of this designation, nearly all dredging operations on the Allegheny River have been shut down.

The United States Army Corps decision to shut down lock service on the Allegheny is based solely on the lack of commercial traffic on the river. If the endangered status were to be lifted, commercial traffic would greatly increase, providing a reason for the United States Army Corps to continue the lock service. In addition, the dredging operations would maintain river depth and allow for future commercial traffic and economic growth along the Allegheny.

It is our understanding from other elected officials in the region and some of our constituents that the populations of the various species of river mussels in the Allegheny River have been questioned. We are working on a tight timeline with a definitive deadline when the United States Army Corps plans on implementing their plan to greatly curtail the Allegheny River Lock system (Locks #5,6,7,8,9). We are hoping such a plan can be averted. We are certainly sensitive to budgetary concerns, but it is important to understand this request does not require additional money. Resumption of commercial dredging on the Allegheny River will provide the revenue necessary to operate the lock system. If the severe restrictions on dredging that has crippled the county since the early 1980s are not lifted, the Allegheny River will turn into 5 ponds separated by impassible locks.

MIKE KELLY  
3RD DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON  
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM  
VICE CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY,  
INFORMATION POLICY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
RELATIONS AND PROCUREMENT REFORM

COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515

515 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
TEL.: (202) 225-5406  
FAX: (202) 225-3103

208 EAST BAYFRONT PARKWAY  
SUITE 102  
ERIE, PA 16507  
TEL.: (814) 454-8190  
FAX: (814) 454-8197

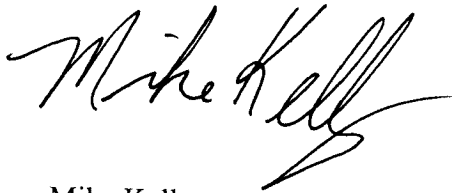
108 EAST DIAMOND STREET  
BUTLER, PA 16001  
TEL.: (724) 282-2557  
FAX: (724) 282-3682

182 MAIN STREET  
GREENVILLE, PA 16125  
TEL.: (724) 885-1113  
FAX: (724) 885-1114

We strongly urge you to at least reconsider the endangered status of these freshwater river mussels of the Allegheny. Doing so is critical to providing for the economic future of this region of the Commonwealth.

We would respectfully request a prompt response. If you have any questions, please contact our offices if you require any additional information.

Respectfully,



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



Bill Shuster  
Member of Congress